

REMARKS

Claims 12-25, 33-36 and 43-45 remain pending in the present application. Claims 12, 14, 33, 35 and 43 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings, and claims as originally filed.

OBJECTION TO THE CLAIMS

The Examiner has objected to Claims 12, 13, 14-25, 33 and 34 for various informalities. The claims have been amended in an attempt to overcome the Examiner's objections.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objections to the claims.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 14-25, 33-37, and 43-45 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), alleging them to be unpatentable over Mooty et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,308,378) in view of DeLuca et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,591,456). The Examiner alleges that this combination would render Applicants' invention obvious to those skilled in the art.

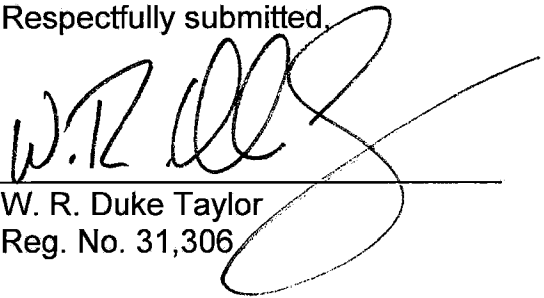
Applicants have amended Claims 14, 33, 35 and 45 to further define the vibration dampening gel in the first and second sheets as well as the location of the vibration dampening gel in use. Independent Claims 14, 33, 35 and 43 are now patterned after allowable Claim 12.

Accordingly, Applicants believe independent Claims 14, 33, 35, and 43, as well as their dependent claims, to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: May 7, 2007

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